

**CABINET MEETING: 28 SEPTEMBER 2022**

---

**CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL  
REPORT 2021-2022**

**EDUCATION (COUNCILLOR SARAH MERRY)  
SOCIAL SERVICES (COUNCILLOR ASH LISTER/COUNCILLOR  
NORMA MACKIE)**

**AGENDA ITEM: 10**

---

**Reason for this Report**

1. The Terms of Reference for the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee requires an Annual Report to be submitted to Cabinet and Council on the work of the Committee over the year.
2. A copy of the Committee's Annual Report 2021/22 is attached at Appendix A. This report outlines the Committee's activities from November 2020 – January 2022

**Background**

3. The Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee is responsible for advising the Council and for advocating on the collective behalf of all care leavers and children looked after by Cardiff Council, to ensure that they receive the best possible care and support.
4. The role of the Committee is to actively promote and operate collective responsibility between the Council, Social Services, Health, Education and other statutory agencies to achieve good parenting for all children in the care of Cardiff Council and to ensure that they are appropriately safeguarded to achieve the best possible chances in life.

**Issues**

5. Due to a change in operating model to focus on the challenges raised by the global pandemic 2 Committee meetings were cancelled in the municipal period in 2020. The further 2 Committee meetings that took place in November 2020 and March 2021 are included in the report.
6. The report outlines several activities undertaken by the Committee covering the period November 2020 – March 2022. Work of the Committee within this period includes:

- The development of a new Terms of Reference
  - The development of a new Corporate Parenting Protocol for the Committee
  - Involvement in the development of the revised Corporate Parenting Strategy
  - Engagement session with Children and young people
7. Following agreement from members of the Committee, the Forward Work programme and the four meetings held from May 2021 to January 2022 were based around the four of the five priorities outlined in the Corporate Parenting Strategy.
  8. The Committee received updates from partners, services and teams based on the following themes during these 4 meetings:

**Priority 1: Improving emotional well-being and physical health**

**Priority 2: Better connections, improved relationships**

**Priority 3: A comfortable safe stable home whilst in care and after**

**Priority 4: Educational achievement, employment, and training**

### **Young people Participation**

9. The National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS) are commissioned by Cardiff Children's Services to deliver a participation service called the Bright Sparks group to children and young people aged 11-25 needing care and support. The principal objective is to ensure children and young people are afforded a voice, becoming active participants in shaping policy and service provision within the council and within a wider external context.
10. At each Committee meeting the Participation Officer from NYAS Cymru attends to inform the Committee of work undertaken by members of the Bright Sparks group in line with the Priorities in the Corporate Parenting Strategy. The updates also provide feedback from young people in order to strengthen the voice of young people and inform the Committee of the challenges, achievements and views of care experienced young people in Cardiff.
11. In October 2021, the Chair of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee met with members of the Bright Sparks group via an engagement session. The purpose of the session was for members of the Bright Sparks group to find out more about the role of the Committee and role of the Chair. The session also helped the Chair of the Committee understand the issues directly impacting young people.
12. The session also provided an opportunity for young people and the chair to have an open discussion about their experiences and provide feedback on the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

## **Monitoring Performance**

13. Several developments have been made to help capture data and inform the Committee of key services that help to achieve deliverable outcomes to improve the lives of Children Looked After and Care leavers.
14. This has included the development of a Key Performance Dashboard, Complaints and Compliments report and progress report of the implementation of the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

## **Scrutiny Consideration**

15. The Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee considered the Annual report on March 15th, 2022.

## **Reason for Recommendation**

16. To enable the Cabinet to receive an update on the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee

## **Financial Implications**

17. Whilst there are no direct financial implications arising, the annual report does identify an action plan which needs to ensure that any cost impacts are identified prior to implementation and are contained within existing budgetary allocations and / or external funding sources.

## **Legal Implications**

18. There are no legal implications from this report

## **HR Implications**

19. There are no HR implications from this report.

## **Property Implications**

20. There are no specific property implications arising from the Corporate Parent Advisory Committee Annual Report 2021-2022. Where there are any property transactions or valuations required to deliver any proposals, they should be done so in accordance with the Council's Asset Management process and in consultation with Strategic Estates and relevant service areas.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Cabinet is recommended to recommend that Council to note the content of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee Annual Report 2021-2022

|                                   |
|-----------------------------------|
| <b>SENIOR RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b> |
|-----------------------------------|

|                          |
|--------------------------|
| <b>Deborah Driffield</b> |
|--------------------------|

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | <b>Director of Children's Services</b> |
|  | 22 September 2022                      |

*The following appendix is attached:*

*Appendix 1 – Corporate Parenting Annual Report*